Scientific and Technological co-operation with Portugal

1514. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need for co-operation between India and Portugal in the sphere of Science & Technology;

(b) if so, whether the areas in which mutual collaboration and co-operation is required, have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the two countries in this regard recently; and

(e) if so, terms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (e) India and Portugal have complementary strengths in the areas of Ocean Science & Technology; Computer Software and Applications; Cellular and Molecular Biology; Biotechnology and Physical and Material Sciences. To mutually benefit from the available knowledge, a Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology (POC) for the period 2001-2002 and Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Ocean Science & Technology (MoU) for a duration of 5 years were signed in Lisbon, Portugal on July 3, 2001, in pursuance of the earlier concluded Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between India and Portugal. The POC contains financial and other terms for implementation of joint research projects, exchange visits etc. The areas of cooperation in the MoU include Ocean Energy, Ocean Dynamics and Modelling, Remote Sensing for Ocean Observation, Environmental Quality, Pollution and Contamination Processes, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Underwater Instrumentation, Remotely Operable and Autonomous Vehicles and Systems for Underwater Exploration, Sea-bed Mining etc.